UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/424/Add.1
6 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 26

ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

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Brazil 2

BRAZIL

[Original: English]

[30 September 1992]

1. The importance of the spirit and objectives of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic has become increasingly evident since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/11.

2. In fact, in a world in which the end of the East-West confrontation has proved to be less than enough to bring about effective solutions to some resilent regional conflicts, or prevent the resurgence of old ones, and at a time in which the gap between rich and poor, developing and developed, has continued to grow, the relevance of the concepts of peace and cooperation cannot be overemphasized.

3. Current efforts to promote cooperation within the Zone include, on the South American side of the ocean, the advancement of the MERCOSUL Common Market, with the participation of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

4. Brazil is also committed to the strengthening of relations with its neighbours on the African shore of the South Atlantic. In this sense, important progress has been achieved, for instance, in the cooperation between the Brazilian Navy and its counterparts in Angola, Cape Verde and Namibia.

5. As for the enhancement of peace and security, in the spirit of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, special reference should be made to the prospects for the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1/ made possible by the recently approved amendments to the text, an initiative led by Argentina and Brazil together with Chile. In the same direction, the solemn commitment by the three South American members of the Zone of Peace, together with other neighbouring countries, to the effect of a total ban on chemical and biological weapons (the Mendoza Declaration) could also be mentioned.

6. Conceived as a bridge between neighbouring countries on both shores of the South Atlantic, in Africa and South America, the Zone of Peace and Cooperation has from its very beginning dedicated particular attention to the protection of the environment.

7. In the Final Document of the First Meeting of the States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, 2/ which Brazil had the honour to host in Rio de Janeiro, in 1988, the States of the Zone noted that the enhancement of knowledge on the environment and the resources of the South Atlantic would be a factor for intensifying their economic and social development (para. 23), and declared that the South Atlantic marine environment should remain free from pollution (para. 28). At the same time, they also agreed to establish a dump watch (para. 29) in order to control the dumping of hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes in the marine areas of the region, including the high seas.

8. At their Second Meeting, hosted by Nigeria in Abuja in 1990, special attention was once more given to environmental questions. In the Final document of that meeting, 3/ the States of the Zone expressed their concern about the continued deterioration of the environment at the global level and reaffirmed their support for a global approach to the problem, taking into due account the development needs of developing countries (para. 31). At that time, they noted that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development would constitute an important opportunity for enhancing the realization of objectives of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (para. 32).

9. Against this background, it is with satisfaction that the Government of Brazil notes the importance of the results of the Rio Conference for the attainment of the goals of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation. These results will certainly have a positive bearing both on the protection of the environment in the South Atlantic and on the promotion of the development of the countries of the region.

10. Agenda 21, one of the milestone documents adopted at the Rio Conference, provides the guidelines for the attainment of sustainable development, to be translated into concrete action at the national, regional and international levels. Hence, it acquires particular relevance for the countries of Zone of Peace and Cooperation.

11. Besides the vital issues of transfer of technology and financial resources and mechanisms, among the chapters of Agenda 21 having a special bearing on the Zone are chapter 17 on the protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources; and chapters 19, 20 and 22 on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes. 4/

12. Paragraph 17.114 of chapter 17, for instance, reads: "States should use existing subregional and regional mechanisms, where applicable, to develop knowledge of the marine environment, exchange information, organize systematic observations and assessments, and make the most effective use of scientists, facilities and equipment". 5/

13. It is the expectation of the Government of Brazil that, not only will the results of the Rio Conference positively influence the pursuit of the objectives of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, but also that the Zone, as a subregional mechanism, will have an important role to play in the international efforts aimed at the implementation of the goals of the Conference.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

2/ A/43/512, annex.

3/ A/45/474, annex.

4/ A/CONF.151/26 (vol. II) and Corr.1.

5/ Ibid., p. 160.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/424/Add.2
16 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 26

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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 2

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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[November 1992]

1. The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to offer comments on General Assembly resolution 46/19 of 25 November 1991, entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

2. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcome the objectives of the resolution, which are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. In this regard, they wish to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to positive developments in United Kingdom-Argentine relations which have contributed to the lessening of tension in the South-West Atlantic. In particular, they wish to emphasize the continuing progress in bilateral cooperation on fisheries that has contributed to conservation of stocks and the continued contribution of the confidence-strengthening measures, agreed at the Madrid talks in February 1990 and modified in September 1991 (A/46/596-S/23164 of 24 October 1991) in avoiding incidents in the military sphere in the South Atlantic.

3. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would also like to inform the Secretary-General that a high-level group, composed of officials from the Governments of the United Kingdom and Argentina, has been set up to explore the scope for cooperation on activities deriving from their respective legislative measures relating to the continental shelf in the South-West Atlantic.